

Deserving Sympathy.

The Mamondiet Canal is not here, but the Brandywine river is only three miles away. The treasure cities of Pithom and Raameses, which our fathers did build, are standing yet. One of them is Hickman's spring-house, a land flowing with buttermilk and butter, yellow as the little round pats they churn at the Philadelphia mint; and the other in Cochran's orchard, full to the very tree tops of robins and wrens and red-winged blackbirds, and music and sunshine and restless shadows and Isaac's goats. Two of them there are; ubiquitous and impressively illogical in their applications. Isaac, a patriarch of six bright summers, is breaking these goats to work in double harness, and it is safe to stand in the same pasture when the goats feel like going. Because they never feel like going the same way. They are only unanimous on the subject of the blackberry patch at a linen duster.

It seems to me that if I had to keep a pet and could not find a camel, I would go buy a goat. It costs somewhat less to keep a camel, but then he can't climb a church-spire, as a goat can. Nor can the camel devour the morning paper so rapidly as the goat can. The other morning I went on a fishing excursion. And in the gray of the morning those goats climbed up the lightning-rod, got into the Goshen branch of the Hawkeye office, and ate up a column and a half of editorial dots and a little poem about the red ox. And they came down with woe and bitterness on their faces, butted the hide off everything that walked about the farm on four legs, banged a harvest tramp clear through a load of hay, and finally climbed to the top of a four-story barn and hated mankind until they got over it.

One of these goats has learned, moreover, that if he "hollers" the gentler-hearted members of the household will not allow the boys to drive him any more, believing that they whip him. Well, I have seen that goat, tied to a post while the boys were harnessing his mate, not standing within ten feet of the post, and not looking in that direction—I have seen that goat open his mouth and set up such a wild, pitiful wail, fairly human in its agony of appeal, that would make the leaves tremble on the maples, and while he roared and bleated and wailed, out would rush the tender-hearted woman, and with withering rebuke for the cruel boys, order that poor goat released.

It is no use for the boys to plead not guilty. They are condemned on circumstantial evidence every time. "Didn't I hear that poor goat scream?" And the "poor goat" being released goes up into the orchard, butts all the bark off an apple tree and laughs in a sardonic manner at the unhappy boys. For some time the prince wanted a pair of goats like Isaac's until he found that his father could haul the great wagon with him in it, and I am kinder in single harness and tenfold more easy to "boss" than the goat, he is contented to drive me.—*Burdette.*

A Shepherd's Dog.

A San Antonio (Tex.) correspondent catalogues the accomplishments of a collie pup as follows:

I have seen him at a word from the shepherd, round up and put between sixteen and seventeen hundred sheep in a pen (many of them wild Mexicans,) and not chase nor crowd any of them. The little chap would mass this large flock of scattered sheep and direct them toward the pen in half the time that several men could do it. When penning the sheep he had to work them down a long hill that sloped to a flat that the pen was built upon. When close in upon any portion of the flock he could not see over them, and would scamper back up the hill and locate the position of the pen, and then flank his sheep according to his bearings. When the last sheep and frisky lamb was inside, he would sit down at the gate and slap the dust with his tail until the shepherd commenced putting up the poles that formed the gate, and I have seen him attempt to assist in that work by trying to drag the poles to the gate. At night he would keep the sheep in the pen, which consisted of brush, or if they broke out would promptly put them back. I have herded those sheep myself, and slept in a small tent a few yards from the pen. In case of the moon rising full, the sheep appeared to take it for sunrise and would break out. The first time it occurred during Dick's administration Dick put his paws upon my breast and licked my face and woke me. I said, "Go for 'em, Dick!" and he did it and put the lost sheep back in the pen, and then came and tried to tell me that all was right. After that night he needed no further hints, but took

the business into his own hands, or paws. He had but little tuition, but he guarded that sheep pen as well as though he was 5 years of age instead of five months. If he had been guilty of any misbehavior for which he knew he deserved punishment, he would rush off and round up his flock of sheep as though he wished to show some work to atone for his misconduct. He had a nose like a bloodhound, and could follow a person's footsteps as well. I have left him asleep on the prairie more than once, stolen away and hidden myself, and watched him follow my footsteps. He would trace every step until he found me, and then would quiver for joy.—*Forest and Stream.*

Cold Winters.

The following statistics of the good old winters are curious:

In 401, the Black Sea was entirely frozen over.

In 768, not only the Black Sea, but the Straits of Dardanelles, were frozen over; the snow in some places rose fifty feet high.

In 822, the great rivers of Europe—the Danube, the Elbe, etc.—were so hard frozen as to bear heavy wagons for a month.

In 860, the Adriatic was frozen.

In 991, everything was frozen; the crops totally failed, and famine and pestilence closed the year.

In 1067, the most of the travelers in Germany were frozen to death on the roads.

In 1133, the Po was frozen from Cremona to the sea; the wine casks were burst, and even the trees split by the action of the frost with immense noise.

In 1236, the Danube was frozen to the bottom, and remained long in that state.

In 1316, the crops wholly failed in Germany; wheat, which some years before sold in England at six shillings the quarter, rose to two pounds.

In 1339, the crops failed in Scotland, and such a famine ensued that the poor were reduced to feed on grass, and many perished miserably in the fields.

The successive winters of 1432-33-34 were uncommonly severe. It once snowed forty days without interruption.

In 1468 the wine distributed to the soldiers in Flanders was cut with hatchets.

In 1684 the winter was excessively cold. Most of the hollies were killed. Coaches drove along the Thames, the ice of which was eleven inches thick.

In 1709 occurred the cold winter. The frost penetrated three yards into the ground.

In 1716, booths were erected and fairs held on the Thames.

In 1744 and 1745, the strongest ale in England, exposed to the air, was covered in less than fifteen minutes with ice an eighth of an inch thick.

In 1809, and again in 1812, the winters were remarkably cold.

In 1814 there was a fair on the frozen Thames.

Growth of Farming in the United States.

A census bulletin just issued shows that the number of farms in the United States has increased from 2,000,000 in 1870 to 4,000,000 in 1880, at the rate of 51 per cent. Compared with the increase of population, which was about 30 per cent. during the same period, the agricultural development of the past ten years proves to have been rapid and extensive. The most striking increase in the number of farms has taken place in the south and the north-western and Pacific states. The increase is shown to be 102 per cent. in Alabama, 91 in Arkansas, 129 in Florida, 98 in Georgia, 70 in Louisiana, 50 Mississippi, 68 in North Carolina, 81 in South Carolina, 60 in Virginia and 185 in Texas. These figures are at once significant and encouraging. They indicate the social and industrial change that has taken place in the south since the war and show the extent to which its once great plantations have been cut up into small farms. In Iowa there has been an increase of 59 per cent. in the number of farms; in Minnesota 99, in Nebraska 415, in Oregon 114 and in California 51. The greatest multiplication has taken place in the territories, the rate of increase ranging from 78 per cent. in Montana to upwards of 900 per cent. in Dakota. The marked growth of farming shown by the census returns in the territories and the western states is obviously due to the rapid settlement of this part of the country by immigrants and others.

The best reason yet advanced for having Monday washing day, the next day after Sunday, is because cleanliness is next to godliness.

SOMEBODY says that women would never do to run railroads, as the trains would always be behind.

The New Light Among the Redskins.

We can imagine how astonished our forefathers would have been at the electric light. It would have been regarded as sorcery in the ancient world, and as diabolical origin in the middle ages. It is no wonder, therefore, that the savages on the plains were bewildered when it was first shown to them. Mr. H. E. Thompson, electrician, of St. Paul, has just returned from the Missouri, where he went to mount an electric light on the "Rosebud" of the Coulson line of Missouri and Yellowstone steamers, tells some interesting stories of the effect of the white man's electric light business on the noble red man at Fort Berthold. Upon arriving at the post, a large assortment of redskins, their sisters, their cousins and their aunts were assembled on the shore in fine shape. While contemplating the new-fangled light, which seemed to eclipse the full orb moon, Mr. Thompson turned the light full upon the gaping crowd with a weird and picturesque effect. The astonished aborigines were paralyzed for a moment and then they set up a dismal chant, lay down and rolled over and pawed up the sage bush, and made the ambient air tremble with their antics and articulations. They were finally assured that the big medicine of the white man was harmless, and then they assumed an attitude of quiescent bewilderment. They congregated upon the shore and gazed upon the illuminated surroundings with mingled emotions of awe and admiration, expressing their feelings in deep guttural accents. At a woodyard up the river the light was turned in full force upon the pile, and the dusky owner sought a hiding place, from which he could not be induced to emerge. The machine mounted on the "Rosebud" was a 6,000 candle power, and it is no wonder the superstitious natives were stricken with terror.—*From Demorest's Monthly for October.*

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